



## President's Message



Mary Suter, Joanne Mandel, Jennifer Brodsky, Christine Chen, Patricia Spencer

We had a great Welcome Back event on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Almost all of the girls who went to Tech Trek camp this summer were there with their families. One mother shared that her daughter gained more than science skills at camp. She grew in self-confidence and now planned to run for student council at her school! Two of the Silver Jubilee Scholarship recipients (pictured above with members of the Committee) also attended providing a college level bookend to the occasion.



Roberta Guise, Co-Chair Public Policy, Cathy Corcoran, President

I was delighted to represent AAUWSF, along with Roberta Guise, Co-Chair Public Policy at the Friends of the Commission on the Status of Women CEDAW (Campaign to End Discrimination Against

Women) Awards luncheon on September 24. It was inspiring to hear about the progress of the Commission and to hear about the achievements of the awardees (<http://friendscosw.org/cedaw2012>). We learned that the Commission is working to bring the International Women's Conference to San Francisco in 2015.

With the November election just weeks away, voter registration drives are a big focus of the AAUW Its My Voice I Will be Heard campaign. AAUWSF Board Members Roberta Guise and Michelle Mammini joined me at a student voter registration event at the Academy. This event is one of many that are ongoing across campus until the deadline of October 22.



Roberta Guise, Cathy Corcoran and Michelle Mammini at AAU

We have our own election issues meeting on October 22 at Sheila Bost's house. Sean Elsbernd will be there to discuss local ballot measures. More details can be found in this issue of Avanti.

At the last board meeting, we crafted a short questionnaire that will be emailed out to all members this month. Please take 5 minutes to respond. Your feedback is very important to us.

Cathy Corcoran  
President

## Board Meeting

**Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. for  
potluck with meeting at 7 p.m. at**

Marilyn Leal's home:

4325 19<sup>th</sup> Street.

All members are invited.

RSVP Marilyn at 626-4110

## Public Policy

### Ballot Issues

**When:** Due to the final presidential debate scheduled for October 22, **we will reschedule our Ballot Issues event and will send an email update.**

**Who:** Sean Elsbernd, District 7 Supervisor, will review the November ballot with us. Since this is his last term, he will introduce the candidate for District 7 Supervisor he is supporting, Mike Garcia

**Where:** At the home of Sheila Bost, 19 Wawona Street at Taraval, one block from the West Portal Muni Station

**RSVP:** Sheila Bost at [wawonast@earthlink.net](mailto:wawonast@earthlink.net)  
Or phone (415) 664-4985

## Tech Trek Report

We had an enjoyable Welcome Back Party for members, Silver Jubilee Scholarship winners and the Tech Trek Girls at Sports Basement. Each of the girls told us about their favorite experience at Tech Trek. We had representatives from all three camps attended last summer. We took sign-ups from the girls and their parents to form an auxiliary. We would like to meet twice a year with a program targeting an area of science. The parents would be offered a chance to help us with ideas for fundraising, publicity in the schools and more.

The news from the Project Leaders in California is that the cost per girl is going up this year to \$900. It is a reflection of the real costs involved in the program. Computers become outdated or break, mailing costs go up, rental of areas at the campus'

go up, etc. I still asked for 15 spots this year. We've done well every year so I am counting on another good year. If not, we can always give a space or two back. The demand for spots at the camps is very high. Fundraising has begun for 2013.

DONORS 2013:

Thank you so much!

Barbara Spencer

Until next month,

Elaine Butler & Michelle Mammini - Tech Trek  
San Francisco Branch Co-coordinators

## International Book Group

**Monday, October 15, 7PM**

Book: Atlas of Unknowns

Author: Tania Jones

Hostess: Paula Campbell

338 Ewing Terrace

RSVP: Paula at 567-1330

## Afternoon With Books

**Friday, October 19, 1:30-3 PM**

Book: The Glass Castle

Author: Jeannette Wells

Hostess: Corrine Sacks

1835 Franklin St. #401

RSVP: Corrine at 292-4130

There is space for a limited number of cars in the building. Please car pool.

## Mystery/Adventure

**Thursday, October 25, 7:30.**

Book: Double Take by Catherine Coulter

Reviewer: Corrine Sacks

Hostess: Mary Suter, 1770 18th Ave. SF

RSVP: Mary at 665-1185

## Travel Group

I realize that I switched events and did not visit to the Walt Disney museum. We joined the Cactus and Succulent Society on a bus trip to Petaluma to visit the Cottage Garden Nursery, the Luther Burbank

museum and a winery instead. It was a beautiful day and we had fun. I now have some more plants for my garden.

I need some help in planning our next day trip. I used to be able to discuss ideas with Steve and need someone to help with ideas and logistics. There is so much to see - please let me know if you are able to co-chair or take over the Travel group.

Elaine Butler, 826-3172 or  
[elainebutler124@comcast.net](mailto:elainebutler124@comcast.net)

### Waiting in the Wings Pat Camerena

Title IX turns forty this year. Many positive changes have been made for women in sports fields but more are needed.

Major league baseball teams for 2012 are in the playoffs and soon there will be another World Series underway for Americans to cheer. However there are very few women who have become Major League broadcasters or public address announcers over the years. What gives? Women major league broadcasters are still a rarity. According to [Deadspin.com](http://Deadspin.com) left handed softball pitcher Michele Smith from Oklahoma State University became the first female analyst for a national baseball broadcast recently for a Dodgers-Braves game. However this two times Olympic gold medalist and softball Hall of Fame member went on to play softball professionally in Japan, not getting a long term place as a broadcaster or public address announcer. Many women would-be broadcasters although generally well received are known for making many bloggers angry just with the sound of their voices or even their opinions. Young Chrissy Scaffedi in Wisconsin is one of only three women among the 190 full time PA announcers working for major and minor-league teams this year. This area of sports involvement seems to still be an over-whelming male field since PA announcers in baseball were first used in 1929. Leslie Saunders was the first African-American woman PA announcer for the Boston Red Sox from 1994-1998. Renel Brooks-Moon has been the longest tenured female PA announcer with the SF Giants since 2000. She has even had her own bobble-head doll! Renel is a local gal, a Woodside High graduate and child of

two educators. She has been elected to the Multi-Ethnic Sports Hall of Fame this year as well as having earned several life-time achievement awards from various sports organizations. Currently there are three full time female PA announcers among the many Major League teams Scaffedi, Adrienne Roberson, and our own Renel. What seems to count is getting your foot in the door and hanging in there. Some women have pursued television careers instead or using broadcasting as a step up to other front office positions. More women are certain to enter this field over the coming years.

[www.foxsportswisconsin.com](http://www.foxsportswisconsin.com)

[www.tidesport.org](http://www.tidesport.org)

[www.deadspin.com](http://www.deadspin.com)

#### Avanti Articles

Please remember to submit Avanti articles to Corrine Sacks by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month via email to: [cpsacks@yahoo.com](mailto:cpsacks@yahoo.com)

#### Get the *Avanti* Faster

If you'd like to receive the Avanti via email notice rather than US mail, please tell the Membership VP, and then a printed copy will not be sent to you. If you prefer, we will continue to print and mail the Avanti to you.

#### Playing Now

##### Paula Campbell

DO NOT MISS **The Normal Heart**. This revival of Larry Kramer's 1985 play about AIDS, and the failure of government and media to recognize the growing danger until it was too late, is heartrending, infuriating, and a brilliant night of theatre.

Kramer, a well-known gay journalist, novelist, playwright, was appalled at both the lack of government financial support and the almost non-existent press coverage in the early days of AIDS – the play is set from 1981-1984. In 1981 he founded the Gay Men's Health Collective, which he planned as an activist group. Sadly, the members were as afraid of being labeled gay (remember this was 81-

84) as they were of contracting AIDS (which then was an automatic death sentence) and shunned the publicity activism would bring. Death was preferable to being known as gay. Kramer was ousted from the group for being too abrasive, and the GMHC become only a support group for AIDS patients. Kramer founded ACT-UP in 1987, an activist group which demonstrated, rallied, marched, (once even stopped traffic on the George Washington Bridge) and finally got much needed publicity, and the funds that came with it, for further AIDS research and treatment options.

I saw the original 1985 production at the Public Theatre in New York, and came away reeling with fury and sadness. One of the things I remember most are the posters in the theatre, changed every few days, that gave the day's date, and the number dead. The current production makes use of technology not available in 1985. Lists of the dead are projected onto the stage walls, later onto the walls of the theatre itself that are near the stage, and finally on to all the walls of the theatre. When the play ends the audience is surrounded by names of the dead. "Powerful" does not begin to describe the effect.

The play is fiercely directed by George C. Wolfe, and performed with heartfelt emotion by all the exemplary cast. Patrick Breen plays Ned Weeks, (the Larry Kramer character). His outraged performance equals that of Joel Grey, (taking over the role from Brad Davis) who I saw in the role. The entire cast is outstanding, with special kudos to Nick Mennell, whose monologue about taking his dying lover back home to his mother in Phoenix, left me and most of the audience in tears – the pilot refused to take off with the sick man on board so a new pilot had to be found, the plane was met when it landed with police in hazmat gear to take him to the hospital, and finally when he died no undertaker was willing to touch the body. Do my readers remember those days – I certainly do.

It's important not to become complacent – AIDS is still a major killer worldwide. When the audience leaves the theatre they're handed a two page letter from Larry Kramer, titled Please Know, dated June, 2012. He points out that there have been 35 million

deaths worldwide, and that during the time it took to see the play, there were 41 new deaths. He cites the still insufficient funding, the lack of any actual cure, the lack of organizational coordination of any kind to find a cure. He points out that the research is done by drug companies, whose interest is best served by keeping patients alive, but never curing them. He writes in part:

*Please know that after all this time the amount of money being spent to find a cure is still miniscule, still almost invisible, still impossible to locate in any national health budget, and still totally uncoordinated.*

**The Normal Heart** is an important document of our times. It is also a gripping, edge of your seat, brilliant evening of theatre. To repeat -- **DO NOT MISS IT.**

**The Normal Heart**, through Oct 7. ACT, 415 Geary St. Box Office 749-2228  
<https://tickets.act-sf.org/online> Tues–Sat 8pm, Sat and Sun 2pm.

## October Birthdays

Carol Robinson	October 1
Cathy Corcoran	October 3
Marian Bernstein	October 3
Joyce Bowe	October 4
Dierdre Araujo	October 6
Harriet Sollod	October 10
Michelle Mammini	October 13
Gwen Essex	October 15
Krisann Chasarik	October 16
Marie Bartee	October 20
Esther Wong	October 23
Patricia Spencer	October 27

### Birthday Not Announced?

If your birthday is not there and you'd like to have it included (or corrected), contact the Membership VP.

## AAUW Has More Than 150,000 Members and Supporters!

At a time when many organizations are seeing a decrease in numbers, AAUW continues to grow and be relevant. New online and social media tools are helping AAUW reach out to people who care about our issues. In doing so, we give voice to their concerns, and they add their voices to ours

### Public Policy Notes

Highlights: the **Status of Women Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2011-2012**.

The Department worked collaboratively with the Department of Emergency Management to implement new codes to identify child abuse, elder abuse, and stalking calls.

2012 Girls Report, "An Update on Girls in San Francisco: A Decade of Success and Challenges," was publicly released in June, followed by a Commission hearing in which more than 20 representatives which adopted 4 key recommendations, that included to increase girls participation in STEM. I've initiated the process to get AAUW-SF TechTrek recognized as a key City resource for girls participation in STEM.

Efforts in the Gender Equality Principles Initiative engaged many leading Fortune 500 companies headquartered in the Bay Area. A self-assessment tool benchmarks actions companies can take to create gender equality.

2011 Gender Analyses of City Commissions and Boards found that commission appointments represent the City's demographics, while Board appointments of women do not.

Violence Against Women Prevention & Intervention (VAW) received public commitment from the Mayor to maintain current funding levels with 2% cost of doing business increase for partner agencies for the next two years. Domestic Violence policy reform and the Family Violence Council

continue to monitor, advocate for and implement policies.

5th World Conference on Women Steering Committee: this is a grassroots effort; key activity was drafting a position statement that advocates that there be a conference in 2015, and that there be no amendments to the 1995 Beijing Platform.

**Next Commission meeting: October 24, 5-7pm, City Hall, Room 408**

**Roberta Guise**

**Co-chair, AAUW-SF Public Policy Committee**

### Membership Updates

If you change your address, kindly notify the Membership Chair.

### State Directory

AAUW CA Directory is posted in searchable PDF format. Both documents can be found in the Forms & Documents section, under Branch Administration, [HERE](#). Hard copies of the directory are available for purchase. Send your request, with a \$10 check to AAUW CA Office, PO Box 160067, Sacramento, CA 95816-0067.

### Online AAUW Branch

There is an online AAUW California Branch at [www.AAUWCaOnline.org](http://www.AAUWCaOnline.org). Their dues are \$10 if you're already a member.

### AAUW Web Pages

**News Page & Media Alerts:** (use links on page to subscribe) [www.aauw.org/About/newsroom/news/index.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/About/newsroom/news/index.cfm)

**Actions to take:** [www.aauw.org/issue\\_advocacy/actionpages/index.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/issue_advocacy/actionpages/index.cfm) **Mission in Action:** [www.aauw.org/publications/mission/index.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/publications/mission/index.cfm)

**Two Minute Activities:** [capwiz.com/aauw/home](http://capwiz.com/aauw/home). **US Congressional Voting Record**

[aauwaction.org/VoterEd/CVR.htm](http://aauwaction.org/VoterEd/CVR.htm)

**Tech Trek Girls and Silver Jubilee Award Winners Attend Welcome Back Brunch**



*Welcome Back Event, Elaine Butler, Co-Coordinator Tech Trek, with the Silver Jubilee Award Winners & Tech Trek Girls*

**Welcome Back Event**

The summer 2012 Tech Trek science camp girls and the Silver Jubilee Scholarship award winners were the main feature at the AAUWSF Welcome Back event. Sports Basement generously provided the space and a great time was enjoyed by all. The Tech Trek girls attended along with their families and shared their experiences from Math/Science Camp. We also had two of the three Silver Jubilee scholarship winners in attendance. Jennifer Brodsky and Christine Chen shared details about their research and their appreciation of the scholarship awarded by AAUWSF. Thank you to all our members for their ongoing support and enthusiasm. What a great way to kick off the year!



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**October 2012**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 <b>International Book Club 7PM</b>	16	17	18	19 <b>Afternoon With Books 1:30</b>	20
21	22	23	24	25 <b>Mystery/ Adventure 7:30 PM</b>	26	27
28	29	30	31			

*Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.*

**Helen Keller**



**Avanti Editor**

AAUW  
 San Francisco Branch  
 P.O. Box 31405  
 San Francisco, CA 94131-0405  
 Address Correction Requested

The American Association of University Women (AAUW), founded in 1881, is the nation’s leading organization advocating equity for women and girls. Its national membership of 100,000 seeks to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research. People of every race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, and level of physical ability are invited to join.

AAUW California was launched in San Francisco in 1886 and began lobbying immediately. It remains the state’s most active and diverse organization for women with 14,000 members in more than 150 branches, plus 6,000 members-at-large.



**AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, philanthropy, education, and research**

**Marie Curie & AAUW**

The year was 1919. Europe had been ravaged by World War I and radium was far too expensive for a scientist of modest means to afford for experiments. This was true even for one as famous as Madame Marie Curie. As a result, her groundbreaking research had reached a virtual standstill. Then the AAUW came to the rescue. Members from Maine to California helped raise an astonishing \$156,413, enabling Madame Curie to purchase one gram of radium and continue her experiments that helped her create the field of nuclear chemistry and forever change the course of science. Madame Curie received the Nobel Prize for her work, but was not admitted to the French *Academie des Sciences* until she won an incredible second Nobel Prize...all because she was a woman. More than 75 years later, there are still only three women members.

**Educational Foundation**

In 1873, a prominent Boston physician, Dr. E.H. Clarke, wrote a book arguing that too much study would give women brain fever and render their children sickly, if they were to have them at all.

The Association of Collegiate Alumnae (AAUW’s chief predecessor) fought this contention in 1885 and won, by gathering data from its members to show that they had suffered no ill health from their college and postgraduate education. In 1888, the Western Association of Collegiate Alumnae (founded here in San Francisco) made educational history by establishing the first graduate fellowship for women (given to Vassar graduate Ida Street).

California is still the largest contributor, enabling the Educational Foundation to award nearly \$3 million in grants to women at the dissertation or doctoral level, and to those pursuing career-related or community-based projects.

**Legal Advocacy Fund**

Founded in 1981, the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) works to achieve equity for women in higher education by recognizing indicative efforts to improve the climate for women on campus; by offering assistance to women faculty, staff, and students who have grievances against colleges and universities; and by supporting sex discrimination lawsuits.

The LAF Board only approves support of cases which are currently involved in litigation, and that have the potential to set legal precedent.

The Legal Advocacy Fund’s annual Progress in Equity Award recognizes indicative and replicable college and university programs.